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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

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America's Path: Grand Strategy for the Next Administration. Center for a New American Security. Robert J. Art et al. May 31, 2012.

America confronts a world in transition. Whatever the outcome of the November 2012 presidential election, America's next president will face many challenges. According to the authors, to lead America wisely, the president and his administration must answer several questions: What kind of world does America face and how is the strategic landscape evolving? What are America's core national interests? How should America pursue its interests and what threatens them? What opportunities exist and how can America seize them? How should America convey its purpose, both at home and globally?

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS_AmericasPath_FontaineLord_0.pdf [PDF format, 76 pages, 4.01 MB].

Item#2

China's New Flexibility on Foreign Intervention. YaleGlobal. Johan Lagerkvist. May 29, 2012.

Authoritarian regimes around the world took note as protests spread swiftly throughout the Middle East, spurred by deep societal anger and the internet. Global powers had to take a stance, whether to side with brutal, corrupt, even delusional dictators or with citizens demanding justice and human rights. With its investments reaching every corner of the globe, China has struggled to rationalize its long-held principle of respecting state sovereignty. Some analysts claim China is inconsistent in policies on Libya, Syria or Sudan, but the author analyzes conditions required before China considers intervention: The issue goes before the UN Security Council; regional organizations approve; military actions could put Chinese economic influence at risk; the target area offers potential of energy or other resources; and the lives of Chinese citizens are at risk. Impact on China's reputation is of less import. Lagerkvist anticipates more flexibility over time, noting, "While China still cherishes the principle of state sovereignty, Beijing has also over time become more socialized into the framework of international norms."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/chinas-new-flexibility-foreign-intervention> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

European Unity on the Rocks: Greeks and Germans at Polar Opposites. Pew Global Attitudes Project. May 29, 2012.

In Europe, what started out four years ago as a sovereign debt crisis, morphed into a euro currency crisis and led to the fall of several European governments, has now triggered a full-blown crisis of public confidence: in the economy, in the future, in the benefits of European economic integration, in membership in the European Union, in the euro and in the free market system. The public is very worried about joblessness, inflation and public debt, and those fears are fueling much of this uncertainty and negativity.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2012/05/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Project-European-Crisis-Report-FINAL-FOR-PRINT-May-29-2012.pdf> [PDF format, 84 pages, 841.17 KB].

Item#4

India's Security Challenges at Home and Abroad. National Bureau of Asian Research. Ajai Sahni and C. Raja Mohan. May 2012.

Sahni argues that India's fractious democracy faces significant internal strife and is hobbled by incoherent policy responses and enduring deficits in capacity. He suggests that the country's internal security system has demonstrated counterinsurgency and counterterrorism. Mohan discusses the impact of the emerging multipolar world on India's foreign and national security policies and examines the new imperatives for the country to go beyond its enduring strategy of nonalignment, including the further development of the U.S.-India strategic relationship.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.nbr.org/publications/specialreport/pdf/SR39_India_Security_Challenges.pdf [PDF format, 60 pages, 1.27 MB].

Item#5

Into Unknown Territory: The Limits to Adaptation and Reality of Loss and Damage from Climate Impacts. CARE International. May 24, 2012.

If global warming continues at its current pace, the planet will increasingly suffer irreversible damages to its biodiversity, natural resources and substantial losses of human life and territory according to the report. The joint report concludes that adaptation to climate change alone will no longer suffice. Governments will need to take new measures to deal with extreme impacts and prepare for losses due to climate change. Unless substantial efforts are taken immediately to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage climate resilient development, global warming could exceed 4 and even 6°C. The costs will place a massive burden even on industrialized countries, whilst massively increasing poverty and reversing development gains in poorer regions.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.care-international.org/Media-Releases/damage-done-ngos-highlight-irreversible-losses-caused-by-climate-change.html> [HTML format with a link to PDF file, 16 pages, 1.11 MB].

Item#6

It's All about the Money: Advancing Anti-Money Laundering Efforts in the U.S. and Mexico to Combat Transnational Organized Crime. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Celina B. Realuyo. May 2012.

Mexican criminal organizations generate billions of dollars in revenues in the U.S. each year and have developed both sophisticated and low tech ways to "launder" their dirty money and continue trafficking. The paper outlines the use of the economic and financial instruments of national power aimed at degrading transnational criminal organizations in the U.S. and Mexico and increasing their cost of doing business. It also examines the major modes of money laundering employed by the TCOs,

describe current U.S. and Mexican anti-money laundering measures, and offer some options for advancing the U.S.-Mexican fight against money laundering.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/Realuyo_U.S.-Mexico_Money_Laundering_0.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages, 792.74 KB].

Item#7

No Evidence That Incentive Pay for Teacher Teams Improves Student Outcomes. RAND Corporation. Matthew G. Springer et al. May 29, 2012.

Analysis of an incentive program that paid teachers bonuses based on their students' growth in achievement in mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies showed no effect on student test scores in any of the subject areas.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_briefs/2012/RAND_RB9649.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages, 108.75 KB].

Item#8

The Potential Impact of Changes in Immigration Policy on U.S. Agriculture and the Market for Hired Farm Labor: A Simulation Analysis. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Steven Zahniser et al. May 22, 2012.

Large shifts in the supply of foreign-born, hired farm labor resulting from substantial changes in U.S. immigration laws or policies could have significant economic implications. A computable general equilibrium (CGE) model of the U.S. economy is used to evaluate how changes in the supply of foreign-born labor might affect all sectors of the economy, including agriculture. Two scenarios are considered: an increase in the number of temporary nonimmigrant, foreign-born farmworkers, such as those admitted under the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Program, and a decrease in the number of unauthorized workers in all sectors of the economy. Longrun economic outcomes for agricultural output and exports, wages and employment levels, and national income accruing to U.S.-born and foreign-born, permanent resident workers in these two scenarios are compared with a base forecast reflecting current immigration laws and policies.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR135/ERR135.pdf> [PDF format, 49 pages, 812 KB].

Item#9

U.S.-EU Cooperation Against Terrorism. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kristin Archick. May 21, 2012.

The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks gave new momentum to European Union (EU) initiatives to combat terrorism and improve police, judicial, and intelligence cooperation among its 27 member states. Since the 2001 attacks, the EU has sought to speed up its efforts to harmonize national laws and bring down barriers among member states' law enforcement authorities so that information can be meaningfully shared and suspects apprehended expeditiously. Among other steps, the EU has established a common definition of terrorism and a common list of terrorist groups, an EU arrest

warrant, enhanced tools to stem terrorist financing, and new measures to strengthen external EU border controls and improve aviation security. As part of its drive to bolster its counterterrorism capabilities, the EU has also made promoting cooperation with the U.S. a top priority. Washington has largely welcomed these efforts, recognizing that they may help root out terrorist cells and prevent future attacks against the U.S. or its interests abroad.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS22030.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages, 280.38 KB].